

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR NORTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

JULY 2002



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Seasonal Influx of Job Seekers Adds to Unemployment

An increase in the number of unemployed in Northwest Wisconsin pushed the area unemployment rate up in June. According to the Department of Workforce Development the June unemployment rate was 5.7 percent, higher than the May rate of 5.5 percent and higher than the rate of one year ago of 5.6 percent.

The unemployment rate for Northwest Wisconsin typically rises from May to June and has done so every year since 1995. The unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, for the State of Wisconsin also rose from 4.5 percent in May to 5.1 percent in June, while the national unadjusted rate was unchanged at 6.1 percent. Seasonally adjusted the state rate was 4.9 percent and the national rate was 5.7 percent.

Unemployment rates were lower in four of the region's ten counties and unchanged in one. The other five counties joined 61 of the state's 72 counties with higher unemployment rates in June.

The unemployment rate declined in Iron County from 6.9 percent in May to 6.4 percent in June. The rate also declined in Burnett County from 5.0 to 4.5 percent, in Rusk County from 6.8 to 6.5 percent, and in Bayfield County from 5.2 to 5.1 percent. The unemployment rate was unchanged in Taylor County at 4.5 percent.

An increase of 180 unemployed residents in Ashland County resulted in a 1.6 percentage point increase in unemployment rate. The rate rose from 8.0 percent in May to 9.6 percent, the second highest rate in the state in June.

In Sawyer County the rate rose from 4.3 in May to 4.8 percent in June. The rate increased from 5.1 to 5.3 percent in Price County, from 5.4 to 5.6 percent

in Douglas County, and from 5.3 to 5.4 percent in Washburn County.

Unemployment in the region and some counties increased in June as summer job seekers entered the labor market in search of work. The number of employed rose for the same reason as the influx of job seekers immediately found work. In June the number of employed in the labor force rose by 2,600 and the number of unemployed increased by 350. The total labor force in June was 96,600.

Many of the newly employed found jobs with area employers but some of the increase occurred as seasonal entrepreneurs created their own work in construction, landscaping and retail trade. These entrepreneurs are included in total employment but are not part of the estimate of payroll jobs.

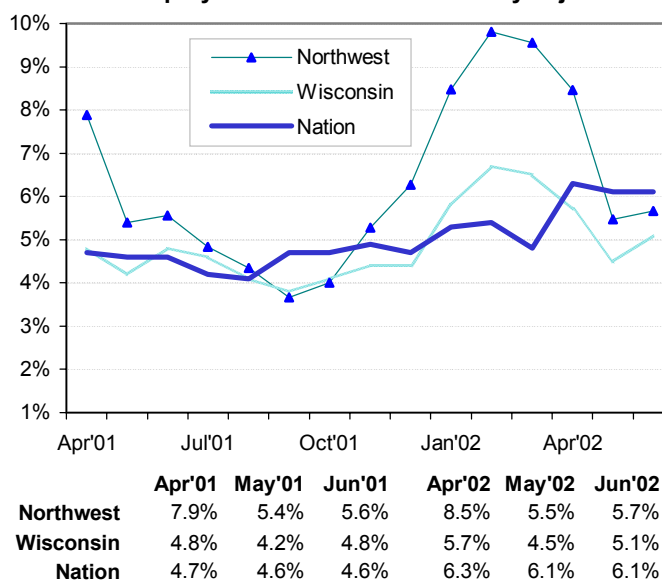
The number of payroll jobs with area employers increased by 1,840 in June and some of the larger increases occurred in the region's tourism counties. In Bayfield County, nearly 400 jobs were added primarily by retail trade and services employers and in Sawyer County 400 jobs were added.

In the combined ten-county region employers in retail trade added 600 jobs in June, while services industry employers created 680

jobs. Manufacturing employers added 370 jobs while construction employers increased payroll by 250 workers. In three counties (Rusk, Taylor and Washburn) government jobs declined. Nearly all of the additional jobs were from expansion and seasonal recalls by existing employers.

The number of residents filing claims for unemployment benefits in mid-June declined in every county from mid-May. In June, 2,977 residents filed

Unemployment Rates-Not seasonally adjusted



claims for unemployment benefits compared with 3,598 in May. In spite of the reduction there were over 1,000 more residents filing claims this June than twelve months earlier. In Ashland County, where the number of unemployed in the labor force increased by 200, the number filing claims for unemployment benefits declined

from 506 to 439. In June 244 claims for unemployment benefits were filed in Bayfield County, 160 in Burnett, 743 in Douglas, 126 in Iron, 227 in Price, 254 in Rusk, 269 in Sawyer, 240 in Taylor, and 275 in Washburn County.

June 2002 Estimates

Not seasonally adjusted	Wisconsin	Ashland	Bayfield	Burnett	Douglas	Iron	Price	Rusk	Sawyer	Taylor	Washburn
Civilian Labor Force*	3,111,200	8,730	7,960	7,620	23,550	3,690	7,050	7,190	11,200	11,020	8,630
Employed	2,952,500	7,890	7,550	7,280	22,220	3,460	6,680	6,720	10,670	10,530	8,170
Unemployed	158,800	840	410	340	1,330	240	380	470	530	490	470
Unemployment rate(%)	5.1%	9.6%	5.1%	4.5%	5.6%	6.4%	5.3%	6.5%	4.8%	4.5%	5.4%
Total jobs, all industries**	2,868,040	8,860	4,510	4,970	19,530	2,610	6,570	6,040	7,920	9,370	6,560
Construction & Mining	135,890	370	300	300	1,100	390	210	210	430	480	310
Manufacturing	570,330	1,720	210	1,070	1,210	480	2,550	2,370	830	3,340	1,200
Transportation & Pbl.Util.	132,550	200	270	150	2,830	50	130	210	170	570	220
Wholesale Trade	139,330	170	40	30	1,220	60	140	140	130	450	180
Retail Trade	511,080	1,680	900	1,070	3,990	590	1,060	750	2,130	1,520	1,490
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	153,700	360	140	180	510	40	220	130	310	380	210
Services	802,140	2,480	1,040	800	5,590	500	1,180	920	1,900	1,680	1,520
Government	423,020	1,890	1,620	1,380	3,080	500	1,080	1,310	2,020	950	1,430

Change from previous month

Civilian Labor Force*	72,000	580	400	340	290	120	160	-100	740	90	330
Employed	51,200	390	380	360	220	130	130	-80	660	90	300
Unemployed	20,800	180	20	-20	80	-10	30	-30	80	0	30
Unemployment rate(%)	0.6%	1.6%	-0.1%	-0.5%	0.2%	-0.5%	0.2%	-0.3%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%
Total jobs, all industries**	25,780	160	390	200	330	70	110	-100	400	50	230
Construction & Mining	6,730	30	30	20	30	50	0	10	30	30	30
Manufacturing	6,300	20	0	30	20	10	40	40	30	110	80
Transportation & Pbl.Util.	-260	-80	20	0	70	-10	10	-10	-10	0	-20
Wholesale Trade	1,230	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	10	0
Retail Trade	5,110	110	130	40	-20	10	20	0	230	20	70
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	1,510	0	0	10	10	0	10	0	10	10	0
Services	10,080	50	180	30	160	10	10	0	120	10	110
Government	-4,920	20	30	80	10	0	20	-150	10	-130	-30

Change from one year ago

Civilian Labor Force*	58,500	240	50	-10	420	170	-10	10	760	210	-70
Employed	46,400	50	50	20	190	160	150	20	740	250	-60
Unemployed	12,100	190	10	-30	230	10	-150	-10	30	-50	-10
Unemployment rate(%)	0.3%	2.0%	0.0%	-0.3%	0.9%	0.0%	-2.2%	-0.2%	-0.1%	-0.5%	-0.1%
Total jobs, all industries**	2,440	-120	230	-30	950	80	80	60	640	300	-110
Construction & Mining	-640	-20	30	20	90	30	10	-10	20	0	20
Manufacturing	-21,400	-120	0	40	-80	0	50	30	-10	170	-110
Transportation & Pbl.Util.	-2,660	-10	10	0	340	0	0	0	20	20	-20
Wholesale Trade	130	-10	-10	-10	50	0	-10	10	0	-10	10
Retail Trade	3,480	-30	50	10	120	10	10	0	220	30	0
Finance,Ins,Real Estate	2,420	10	-10	20	0	0	0	-10	10	20	-10
Services	14,260	-130	-50	-110	480	-20	-20	10	210	90	30
Government	6,840	-20	220	-10	-60	50	40	30	160	-30	-30

* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

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